

American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75

43 Main Street, P.O. Box 42

Franklin, MA 02038-0042

Telephone: 508-517-9909 Website: <http://www.mapost75.com>



Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on April 9, 2026.

Meetings are normally held at 23 Hutchinson Street, Franklin, MA
on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 1900.

Officer Roll Call:

Commander - Dick Hynes	Present
1 st Vice Commander - John Milot	Present
2 nd Vice Commander - John Hefele	Present
Adjutant - Joe Landry	Excused
Finance - Dave Labonte	Present
SGT at Arms - Tim App	Present
Chaplain - Bob Markunis	Excused
Historian - Steve Szilniczky	Excused
Service Officer - Shannon Nisbett	Present
Quartermaster - Frank Coughlin	Present

11 members were in attendance.

Meeting called to order by Commander Hynes at 1900.

- Colors posted by SGT at Arms Tim App.
- Opening prayer offered by Actin Chaplain John Hefele.
- POW/MIA flag and chair placed at all meetings of the American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of POW's and MIA's still unaccounted for.
- Pledge of Allegiance recited by all.
- Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion recited by all.
- Officer Roll Call.

Opening the Meeting:

- Jeanne Lunny was introduced to the Post members. She was in the US Air Force and expressed an interest in joining the Post.

Reading the minutes of the previous meeting:

- Minutes of the previous meeting had been posted on the Post's website so that members could read them beforehand. Hard copies of the minutes were not available at this meeting, so a motion was made and seconded to table the discussion until the next meeting.

Reading of Communications and Bills:

- None

Finance Officer report (Dave Labonte):

- A copy of the financial report for the previous month had been posted on the Post's website so that members could read it beforehand. Members who were present at the meeting were given a hard copy for their evaluation.
- After a discussion was held, a motion was made and seconded to accept the financial report (with changes if any). A vote was taken, and the financial report was accepted (with changes if any).

1st Vice Commander report (John Milot):

- The membership goal is 100% and the Post is currently at 96.3%, which is 7th out of 28 in the District. We have 78 out of 81 members who have paid their dues for 2026.

2nd Vice Commander report (John Hefele):

- Buddy Check packets will be passed out to those who are participating in this program.

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- None

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- He told Natalie that he has her jacket. He also said that he has one large jacket and two other ones too.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- None

Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):

- The Town Finance Committee met and it went positively for the Veteran's Department. There will still be another meeting and then the Town Council will have their budget meeting. There is a lot of unpredictability but hopefully, the VA Department will sail through.
- National Honor Society students have been interviewing Veterans for the Library of Congress history project. They made 12 gift baskets for women Veterans and will pass them out on a first come, first served basis at Starbucks on Friday at 9:30.

Unfinished business:

- On Thursday, April 10th, there will be a double ceremony on the Common. They are Vietnam Vets and Dick asked everyone to consider going as there will be family members there. He also said that there will be a Ceremony on April 17th for WWII Veteran John Kell and on April 30 for Vietnam Vet John Pasquantonio.
- The Sons and Daughters of Italy are celebrating their 100th Anniversary and Dick said that it is possible that they might ask us to do something on the Common. Randy LaRosa said that there will be a Second Sunday Series talk at the Franklin Historical Museum related to this.
- A Strategic Planning meeting has not been held yet and Dick will try to get one set up in the next month.
- Jim Lane is still trying to get a band for the Memorial Day parade. Frank was able to get the National Guard band. Dick thinks we have enough people to put a nice Color Guard together. Major Bowser will be part of the Color Guard in his uniform. His unit will march in a separate group. It is hoped that the Color Guard will be able to carry the flags for all six branches of the Military.
- A Post social event will be scheduled at the Rome Restaurant for late May or early June. Matt McGrath will contact them to see what is available. Each member will contribute \$10.00 and will pay for their own drinks.
- The Post recently held a successful event at the Brockton VA hospital. Matt McGrath brought 10 pizzas, and some were delivered to patients who were confined to their rooms. This event will be held on a quarterly basis.
- Dick and John went to the National Commander's testimonial in Marlboro, which was well-attended.
- The 2026 Scholarship program has 19 candidates who are seeking a scholarship. The Post will only give two. The winners will be awarded these at the school's Award Ceremony.
- Boys and Girls State each has a candidate. Monica McIntyre is the Girls State candidate and Roman Caccavelli is the Boy's State candidate. He is a Junior at Franklin High School. One of the Post's previous Boy State candidates will be graduating from West Point this year.
- The Post will host the Junior League Baseball Playoffs this year from August 1st thru the 5th. Dick gave Tyler Pasquarosa a check for \$500.00 as a contribution from the Post.
- Two books were passed around to members at the meeting from the USS Massachusetts commissioning. Dick said that seven Post members went to this event. Cloie Bowser was 1 out of 12 students who won an essay contest. Each of the twelve berthing spaces on the submarine will be named for each student's town, meaning Franklin will be represented.
- Officer nominations are now open. Each member can nominate someone (including themselves) for Commander, Senior Vice-Commander or Junior Vice-Commander. All other Officer positions are appointed positions. Members who nominate someone should check with the member first to see if they would be willing to accept the position or not. Nominations will close by the May meeting, and voting will be held at the June meeting.
- The Post needs three more new members to reach our 100% goal.
- Ed Foti will be hosting another pool party this year at his home. The date is July 25th with a rain date of July 26th.

- Eric Eidswick will handle the selling of poppies at the Memorial Day parade.

New business:

- There is a list of many awards that the Department gives to members.
- Ernie Corruthers asked if we could host the Korean War Veteran's Luncheon on July 27th. John Milot to see if this could be held at Franklin TV. Another place that will be considered is the Franklin Senior Center.
- Dick mentioned that David Seyfarth died. He was the Post member who was confined to his home and Post members would sit with him on Tuesday nights so that his wife could go to her choir rehearsal.

For the good of the Legion:

- None

Closing the meeting:

- Acting Chaplain John Hefeled led members in prayer.
- POW/MIA flag retired by SGT At Arms Tim App.
- Colors retired by SGT at Arms Tim App.
- The meeting was adjourned by Commander Hynes.